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DANIEL SCHORR AT LARGE

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*SOC 4.01.2 The Man*  
~~SECRET~~  
*(orig under Sec 1.1)*  
*pure crap*  
*W*  
*Kathy*  
*Ron*  
*CM*

WASHINGTON, D.C.--One of the most intriguing mysteries of our time is the question of what happened between President Nixon and CIA Director Richard Helms at Camp David Nov. 20, 1972. It is raised, once again, in Thomas Powers' biography of Helms, "The Man Who Kept the Secrets." Let me hasten to warn, before laying out the background, that there is no solution to the mystery--and there may never be one.

The known fact is that Nixon, in the process of a massive post-reelection reshuffle of his administration, called Helms to Camp David. In a half-hour conversation, with H.R. Haldeman the only other person present, Nixon fired Helms, but, unexpectedly, agreed to appoint him as ambassador to Iran.

The motive for the firing was clear enough--Helms, while conducting a cover-up of the CIA's tangential involvement with Watergate figures, had refused to help in the White House cover-up. He also had been less than cooperative, at an earlier stage, in making available CIA files on Vietnam and

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